

Jesus on Life

John 14:6

Series: “Jesus On _____: The Only Perspective that Matters”

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What an incredible truth to declare on this Easter morning! There is no name...none more powerful...none more beautiful than the name of Jesus. It is Jesus we worship today because he is the one who once and for all beat sin, death, hell, and the grave and because of this the scripture records:

Phil. 2:9-10 – “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

If you have any questions about what Easter is all about...if you're here visiting today for the first time and wonder what Champion Forest is all about - let me answer in one word, what all this... what we are all about – it's Jesus!

- Jesus is the reason we gather each week...
- Jesus is the one we worship and hold high...
- Jesus is who we serve and aim to please...

We are all about Jesus! And that's why we are starting a new series today that will run over the course of the next eight weeks, we're calling: *Jesus on _____*. The subtitle: *The Only Perspective That Matters* (**new series PROMO**)

We live in a world driven by social media where everyone gets to air their opinion about everything.

- From Princess Kate's video about her cancer diagnosis– is it AI, is it not...
- To Beyonce singing country music – should she be accepted, should she not...
- To what the Astros have to do to get back to the World Series this year...

All of us like sharing our opinion...giving our perspective on whatever it is that may be going on around us at a given moment.

I came across some quotes this week regarding the sharing of opinions that I thought you may enjoy. Don't know who said some of these, but I relate to them for sure!

“You have the right to your opinion. And I have the right to think you're an idiot.”

“Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.” (John F. Kennedy)

“Of all of your opinions, the one I value most is the one you keep to yourself.”

When it comes to just about every subject in life, all of us have thoughts...opinions...perspectives, but for the Christian – and I would even say for the non-Christian, the opinion and perspective that matters the most, is Jesus. What matters MOST:

- Is NOT what we think...
- Is NOT what we feel...
- Is NOT our opinion or perspective...

What matters MOST, about any given subject is what does Jesus say about it?

And today is the perfect day to talk about...this is the title of the message: **Jesus on Life**

You know, just as Good Friday is synonymous with suffering and death, Easter and life are synonymous.

It is of course the springtime, and you can't look around without seeing the trees and flowerbeds coming back to life. Now, this pollen is killing some of us, but the fact that it's here, represents life!

Easter is about the resurrection – what we are here celebrating today is that which was dead – Jesus – came back to life. Easter and life go together like:

- Peanut butter and jelly...
- Country music and George Strait...
- Houston and the rodeo...
- Dallas Cowboys and disappointment and failure...

Just read the gospels! You will see Jesus had MUCH to say about life. In fact, in John's gospel alone, 35x the word "life" is used and more often than not, it's used by Jesus describing himself and his ministry.

As we begin this Easter message today, I want you to take note first that: **Jesus is life**

Life is a title that Jesus took on! When we were singing about the name of Jesus earlier, you could see different names of Jesus on the screen and one of those names given is life. On two different occasions Jesus referred to himself as life.

One on occasion, his friend, Lazarus had died. And everyone was at the funeral mourning the loss of their family member and friend. Jesus himself was mourning. The scripture says, "he wept" as he witnessed the heartache and sense of loss people were feeling. It was in this moment that he spoke these words in:

John 11:25-26a – “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die...”

He then raised Lazarus from the dead! And speaking of life and Jesus loving life, did you know that every funeral Jesus came across that is recorded in the scripture, he broke up!

There are three funerals recorded in scripture...four if you count his own, and every one of them, Jesus raised the person who was dead back to life.

Jesus could bring back to life because he was life! It's one of his names.

Before he was betrayed and arrested, Jesus was speaking with his disciples and told them that he would be going away. They didn't understand what he meant and they were certainly discouraged by this news.

I mean, think about it...here is a man they had spent three years of their life with! When Jesus was around, they couldn't be touched! They had just entered Jerusalem a few days prior to the shouts of Hosanna.

There was attention and acclaim when they were with Jesus, and now he is sharing with them that he is leaving them? And it was at this point that Jesus said in:

John 14:6 – “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Now, this is quite a claim! To tell people that you are LIFE...and that NO ONE can get to God except through you?! You make a claim like that, you better be ready to back it up!

Illus. Sing like Durell – Look, I can claim to sing like Durell all day long – You ought to hear me when I'm in my car by myself...I sound just like him! I can make that claim, but at the end of the day, I will be proved more than a fraud if I back that claim up.

Well, Jesus made the claim to be life and he backed it up! He proved it with his own resurrection. This is what separates Jesus from all others!

Jesus claimed to be the very source of life and was able to actually back that claim up by beating death!

Illus. C.S. Lewis – was a professor of English Literature at both Oxford and Cambridge. He was brilliant...wrote more than 30 books and was well-known for his work as a Christian philosopher and apologist. You probably know his name from the fictional series, *Chronicles of Narnia*.

He was a brilliant mind...creative genius. One of his more popular books is called, *Mere Christianity* and it's a collection of talks that he presented via BBC Radio back in the 1940's presenting the reasons he was a follower of Christ.

What made Lewis so interesting was not simply that he was brilliant, but the fact he came to Christ later in life. He was an atheist for much of his life and it wasn't until after conversations with his friend, J.R.R. Tolkien (of Lord of the Rings fame)...it was mainly through conversations with him and reading some Christian theology that ultimately he came to know Christ.

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, there is a chapter called "The Shocking Alternative". And in it, he writes about Jesus backing up these claims to be the Son of God who is Life! He writes:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

To claim to be life, Jesus had to back it up! To make that claim and NOT back it up would make him a liar – therefore he's not worthy to be followed...or it would make him a lunatic – we'd write him off as crazy! But the fact that he beat death, its proof as Lewis writes, that he is Lord.

Jesus is life. Secondly notice: **Jesus gives life**

Now, when we use this word life, we mean it in a variety of different ways. We could say that Jesus gives:

1. Physical life

We're looking at what Jesus says about certain issues in this series and the last message in this series at the end of May, we are going to address the topic: Jesus on Jesus.

We're going to look at the claims Jesus made about himself. Some people say, "Jesus never claimed to be God." Well, that's just not true and we are going to look in detail at what Jesus said about himself – who he was, where he had come from, what he had come to do, etc.

We know that Jesus is God. And as God, he was present at the creation of the world when everything was made. John begins his gospel with this assertion:

John 1:1-3 – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Col. 1:16 – “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

Jesus gives you physical life. You would not be here without Jesus. And listen: Jesus cares about your physical life.

He cares about whether or not you have food to eat and clothes to wear. We’re going to talk next week about Jesus on anxiety...and we will see that Jesus cares about what you are going through and the tough times that may be robbing you of peace of mind and heart.

1. Jesus gives: Physical life
2. Jesus gives: **Spiritual life**

Did you know that you can be present here today physically – meaning, you’re here and your heart is beating. Your lungs are taking in oxygen. You’re experiencing different emotions that only someone who is physically alive could experience.

You can be alive physically and DEAD spiritually. The Bible teaches that those who are not in a personal relationship with Jesus are dead from a spiritual standpoint.

And here’s the thing – ONLY Jesus can give you spiritual life!

There were multiple occasions in scripture when the religious leaders questioned Jesus. He would say things and do things that just rubbed them the wrong way.

One of these occasions is in John 5. Jesus heals a man that had been paralyzed for 38 years. He was in a pretty hopeless condition and Jesus healed him on the Sabbath which was against how they interpreted the Mosaic Law and it just infuriated them.

Jesus in conversation with them said in: **John 5:19, 21 – “So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise... For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life (spiritual life), so also the Son gives life to whom he will.”**

To have spiritual life means that you can see spiritually. It means that you can understand and comprehend spiritual matters. To have spiritual life means that you have your sins forgiven and that you have been restored to a right relationship with God.

This is what Jesus meant when he said in: **John 10:10b – “...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”**

Abundance of life is QUALITY of life...it’s experiencing the MOST out of life! The abundance of life:

- is a life of joy...

- it's a life where guilt doesn't plague you...
- it's a life where your circumstances don't rule over you...
- it's a life where you experience purpose and meaning...

Does this describe you? If not, I want to ask, "Are you sure you have spiritual life?" This is a question you must answer today! You can't non-answer this! You know what a non-answer is, don't you?

Illus. non-answer - Our kids do this to us all the time!

- Did you clean your room? I've been upstairs all morning! That's a non-answer!
- Did you do your homework? It's not due until Tuesday! That's a non-answer!
- Did you lock your sister in the pantry with the light off? What? Sir? That's a non-answer!

Listen, you can't non-answer this one. You either have spiritual life or you don't - and if you don't, I'm telling you the results CAN be catastrophic, and I don't use that word lightly.

Illus. Baltimore Bridge – all of us have followed this story this week. A huge cargo ship (size of three football fields) lost power and as a result ran right into the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Six people lost their lives and as you can see in this pic (**SHOW PIC**) the entire bridge was destroyed.

When you don't have spiritual life...when Jesus, the Lord of life is not living in your life, you're like a powerless cargo ship. There is nothing controlling your steering. You're directionless, and damage to yourself and to others is the inevitable result.

Jesus gives life. He gives physical life. He gives spiritual life. And the reason spiritual life is so very important is that with spiritual life, Jesus also gives:

3. **Eternal life**

This series is Jesus on____. This message is Jesus on LIFE. Let me give you three passages to close this message and we'll just let Jesus speak for himself about eternal life and how to have it.

John 3:36 – “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

God's wrath remains on the person who doesn't have spiritual life because that person is choosing to live in sin, and sin is what separates us from God.

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of God and that the wages of sin...the consequences of sin is death - this is the wrath of God!

It's not just that we die a physical death (we will all experience death because of sin), but if we die in our sins, NEVER asking the Lord of life to live in our life, we will die experience the consequences of his wrath forever!

BUT...if we BELIEVE...if we BELIEVE – not just with our head, but with our heart that Jesus is the Lord of life – if we BELIEVE this by faith, he will give us spiritual life and along with it eternal life.

John 10:27-28 – “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life (eternal life is a gift! Nothing you can do for it. It's by his grace!), and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Notice: To have eternal life is to never perish! This is the beauty of Easter! This is why we celebrate! Because in Jesus AND because of Jesus we can live forever!

ALL you have to do is BELIEVE and RECEIVE this free gift of salvation. Probably the most well-known scripture in all the Bible puts it like this...this is Jesus speaking:

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world (put your name there!), that he gave his only Son, that whoever (that means you!) believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus is life. Jesus gives life. Here's the question?

Have you given Jesus your life?

This is how it works! You want life...real life? You give Jesus your life by humbling yourself and believing and following him...receiving him into your life, and he will give you his life that will change and transform you forever. You can leave here today KNOWING that you have eternal life.

Would you bow your heads in prayer with me?

The question still stands: Have you given Jesus your life? To put it another way, “Has Jesus given you...infused you with his life?”

As we have seen it happens when you by faith believe and receive. We say around here that receiving Jesus is as simple as your ABC's.

- A – Admit you're a sinner
- B - Believe in Jesus
- C – Confess him as Lord

If you want to give Jesus your life, I'm going to ask you to pray a prayer.

There is nothing magical or mystical about this prayer. It's your humility and faith that God sees and it's the cry of your heart that he hears. If you want to believe in Jesus and give him your life today, I want you to pray in your heart and mean this prayer I am putting on the screen right now:

“Jesus, I believe you are the Lord of life. I ask you today to forgive my sin. I believe you died on the cross. I believe you were buried and raised to life, and that you can give me life. I ask you to come into my heart and live in me. I trust you with and for my salvation. Thank you for giving me life and help me to live for you every day. Amen.”

Now, if you prayed that prayer with me, it's the greatest decision you will ever make...you made the right choice!

And now I'm going to ask you to make another decision...and that is to make your receiving of Jesus public and in just a moment, I'm going to ask you to stand.

We do this all the time around here and here's what is going to happen. Our church wants to celebrate your decision. The Bible pictures heaven as a big party...even saying when one comes to know Jesus all of heaven rejoices! A party is being thrown!

And today because new life is taking place...there is so much joy...so much excitement...we're joining in on that heavenly party!

And so, for those of you who prayed with me that prayer...you repeated in your heart and meant it, we want to celebrate...like it's your birthday party and in a very real way, it is! It's your spiritual birthday. It's like a Labor and Delivery unit, new life is here – there's always joy and celebration!

And so here is what I'm going to ask you to do: I'm going to pray and then I'm going to ask you to stand...and by standing you are saying, I prayed with you, Jarrett and gave my life to Jesus.

PRAY.

So here we go...on the count of three. No waiting...no looking around...by faith you have asked Jesus for life and by faith you are going to stand and let us celebrate with you. Ready?

1...2...3...Stand!

Church stand with them...be seated...explain registration card and balloon towers.

BECAUSE HE LIVES.

Please Note: This document is not meant to be a published, cited, annotated research paper. It is simply a transcript of a spoken message, provided as a resource. Many commentaries, articles, and other sermon helps were likely studied and contributed to the forming of this message.